

Possible topics for today's press conference

1. Meeting with President-elect Obama

- stimulus package
- make the point that the best parts of the Obama stimulus package – investing in infrastructure and job creation – are already integral parts of our Gulf Coast/Katrina economic recovery efforts
- The port, regional water/wastewater infrastructure, metal trades academy and innovative job training programs. The port especially can be described as the ideal project to stimulate the economy.
- Much of what they are proposing we are already doing in Mississippi, what you can describe as a mix of economic and “main street” investment that includes the Homeowners Grants and affordable housing programs.

2. Economic development

- European trip – vital in these troubled times to continue building relationships with companies doing business in Mississippi now, their suppliers, and prospects.
- Mention Governor's Economic Symposium on Tuesday, December 16, will bring together various elements, such as economic developers, manufacturers, energy experts and a plenary session featuring Bob Allsbrook of Regions Bank Birmingham.

- The idea of the economic symposium is simple:
Mississippi is not immune to economic downturns in
the national and international economies.

3. NBAF

4. Legislative budget

- First draft freezes 4,600 vacant jobs; no raises